

Transition from Controlled Economy to Market Economy

5061. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached European Community for facilitating the countries transition from a controlled economy to market economy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the response of the European Community in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sale of Foreign Exchange by Authorised Dealers

5062. SHRI GURDAS KAMAT.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorised dealers have been permitted to sell foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of banks where the dollar windows have been opened, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether these dollar windows are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currently 72 banks, 11 full-fledged money changers and one travel and tourism operator and authorised to sell foreign currency. Authorised Dealers are licensed to deal in foreign exchange and undertake various types of transactions which have international financial implications.

(c) Under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) in operation from 1st March, 1992, all exporters of goods and services and recipients of remittances in convertible currencies are permitted to retain up to 15% of the receipts out of the amount surrendered at free market rates, in foreign-currency account with banks in India. State-wise details of such accounts/banks are not available.

(d) The RBI monitors the activities of Authorised Dealers by scrutinising the various returns submitted by the dealers and also by periodical inspections of their offices/branches

(e) Does not arise.

Implementation of Approved Joint Venture Proposals

5063. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80% of the proposals for Indian Joint Ventures abroad cleared by the Government have not become operational as reported in the Economic Times December 9, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for not executing the approved proposals and when these

proposals were approved by the Government; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for early execution of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some reasons for projects not being implemented are unfavourable economic conditions in the host country, lack of cooperation among joint-venture partners, financial difficulties, increase in project cost, and inadequate pre-investment preparation. Even though assistance from Indian Embassies is available, execution of venture projects depends largely on the efforts made by the partners on either side.

Supply of Raw Materials to Tribal Weavers in Sikkim

5064. SHRIMATI DILKUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any schemes to provide raw materials to tribal weavers in Sikkim at subsidised rate.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While there is no scheme for providing raw materials at subsidised rate, there are several schemes of Government of India related to procurement of raw materials and for marketing their products. These schemes

include Share Capital Assistance to weavers of primary societies, grant of Margin Money to Destitute Weavers, Project Package Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme, Publicity and Exhibition and Supply of Raw Materials through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). Government also supports setting up of Weavers Cooperative Spinning Mills by providing Share Capital Assistance through the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Production of Silk

5065. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the State Government to promote sericulture in rural areas,

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have since modernised the functioning of the Central Silk Board in order to promote silk production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take steps to boost the silk production in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The Schemes for development of sericulture are primarily formulated and implemented by the State Governments. Under sericulture, the prime activities like mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing and production of cocoons, silk reel-